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PP RUEHLMC
DE RUEHWD #0121 0991301
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FM AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0446
INFO RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP

C O N F I D E N T I A L WINDHOEK 000121

STATE FOR AF/S, DS/ICI/CR/CIF, DS/PR, DS/CI, and DS/ISSO

SIPDIS

E.O. 12598: DECL: 04/07/2018

TAGS: [KCIP](#) [PREL](#) [WA](#)

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: ALLEGATIONS OF SECURITY BREACHES OF
GOVERNMENT COMPUTERS

Classified By Ambassador Dennise Mathieu per 1.5 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) On April 4, Rainer Ritter (protect), suspended CEO of the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA), informed Ambassador Mathieu that he had discovered irregularities with regard to NAMFISA's computer system. He further stated that he had reported those irregularities to the local police and Namibian Anti-Crime Commission. Subsequently, Ritter was relieved of his official duties at NAMFISA and is now facing various charges of misconduct himself.

¶2. (C) Ritter claimed that NAMFISA's system had been used to hack into the computer system of Namibia's National Planning Commission (NPC). In addition to Namibian government documents, several Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) documents reportedly had been downloaded from the NPC director's computer onto the NAMFISA system. Ritter believes those documents were forwarded to the SWAPO Party Youth League during the debate last fall about MCC Compact ratification. (Comment. Post believes the SWAPO Party Youth League obtained copies of draft agreements directly from the NPC Board members due to the timing of a Board meeting and press statements. End comment.)

¶3. (C) Ritter further believes that the NAMFISA system could be linked to Chinese cyber security incidences reported in the news recently. He found it odd that the NAMFISA computer regularly accessed the following IP address 239.255.255.250 which Ritter traced to California, outside Los Angeles.

¶4. (C) Comment: Ritter is considered to be a straight arrow. He told us that he was suspended after investigations turned up evidence of wrongdoing by senior government officials. His claims of improprieties at NAMFISA and his suspension have been reported widely in the local news. Sensitive MCC documents are not shared with the NPC Board (the Accountable Entity for the MCC compact), thus the risk of compromise regarding tenders, for example, is not an issue. Documents such as drafts of the Program Implementation Agreement and Tax Agreement were likely on the NPC director's computer at the time of the alleged NAMFISA intrusion, and both are now public. However, it is disturbing that GRN systems may be highly vulnerable to cyber attacks within and without Namibia. Post would appreciate any information that is learned about the IP address in Para. 3.

MATHIEU